

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

THE HOURS FOR TRICK OR TREATING ON TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2006 WILL BE FROM 5:00 PM UNTIL 8:00 PM. THE PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY POLICE WILL BE GIVING OUT FREE HALLOWEEN TREAT BAGS AND GLOW IN THE DARK SAFETY BRACELETS.

Halloween is an exciting, fun-filled time for young people. Unfortunately, it can also result in tragedy. The following safety tips are offered for parents, children, and drivers, which will help make Halloween a safe event for all.

ADULTS

- Welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch lights and any exterior lights on.
- Coordinate with your neighbors and patrol your streets occasionally to discourage speeding motorists, acts of malicious mischief and crimes against children.
- Set a time limit for your children to "trick-or-treat". An adult should accompany any children under eight (8) years of age.
- Instruct children never to eat anything until they are home and the treats have been examined. Cut and wash fruit before eating. Throw away anything unwrapped.
- Check the wrappers of commercial treats for tampering.
- Report any suspicious or unusual activity immediately to the police department.

MOTORISTS

- Exercise extreme caution when driving a vehicle. Be on the alert for excited youngsters who may have their vision restricted by masks.

TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Do not accept rides from strangers.
- Carry a flashlight and use it when crossing streets.
- Cross only at street corners, never between parked cars, and never diagonally across an intersection.
- Look in all directions before crossing the street, and obey all traffic lights. Walk – never run – across the street, and use sidewalks, not the street for walking.

- Never trick-or-treat alone. Have at least two “buddies” together for the entire evening.
- Do not go inside anyone’s home. Remain on the porch at all times.
- Do not take short cuts through backyards, alleys, or parks.
- Trick-or-treat only in your neighborhood and on well lit streets. If possible, daylight hours are best.

COSTUMES

- Make sure your child’s costume is not flammable. Show your child how to roll on the ground in the event his/her costume catches fire. In case of fire, do not run, as this makes the fire spread more rapidly.
- Your child should have at least one hand free at all times to avoid injury in case of a fall.
- Make sure that your child’s mask does not restrict his/her vision and that it has adequate breathing holes. It is preferable to use non-allergenic makeup for the disguise instead of using a mask.
- Use reflective tape or retro-reflective material for costumes.
- Swords, knives and other such accessories should be of soft or flexible material.

EXAMINATION OF CANDY

- Instruct your child not to eat or drink any candy or food until he/she arrives home and it has been inspected by adults.
- Accept only professionally wrapped candy. Discard all candies which are not wrapped or whose wrapping appears to have been opened or punctured.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY POLICE DEPARTMENT, CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER AT 242-7868.